

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05

IGA-01 /120 W

----- 114725

R 130900Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4287

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

UNCLAS BEIRUT 6038

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ECWA, UNDP, PLO, UN, XF

SUBJECT: ECWA SECOND SESSION: DECISIONS

REF: BEIRUT A-90, A-99, A-110; 5612, 5750

SUMMARY: ECWA SECOND SESSION MAY 5-10 ENDED AS UN-EVENTFULLY AS IT BEGAN. FOURTEEN RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED OF WHICH FOUR MAY REQUIRE SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCING, INCLUDING \$155,700 FOR PLO ACTIVITIES. DEFERRED WERE DECISIONS ON PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS CITY, NEW MEMBERS, THIRD SESSION SITE AND VOLUNTARY EXTRA-BUDGET TRUST FUND FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS. PLO GIVEN "PERMANENT OBSERVER" STATUS AND GENERALLY TREATED AS MEMBER BUT NOT RPT NOT ADMITTED TO CLOSED MEETINGS OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. SECOND SESSION (SECOND ANNUAL MEETING) OF U.N.

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ECWA) MAY 5-10

AT BEIRUT'S HOLIDAY INN UNEVENTFUL. ONLY 11 OF ECWA'S 12 MEMBERS (ARAB COUNTRIES EAST OF EGYPT) ATTENDED. NORTH YEMEN BOYCOTTING BEIRUT AFTER MID-APRIL WOUNDING HERE OF ONE OF ITS DIPLOMATS, FOURTH AND FIRST NON-FATAL ATTACK ON NORTH YEMEN POLITICIANS AND DIPLOMATS HERE PAST TWO YEARS. PRESENT IN "CONSULTATIVE CAPACITY" WERE 16 NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES (TWO MORE THAN 1974), 12 EUROPEAN AND AUSTRALIA, PAKISTAN, USSR, AND US. SEVEN THESE DELEGATIONS HEADED BY BEIRUT AMBASSADORS WHO PRESENT ONLY FOR OPENING CEREMONY OR TO GIVE SPEECHES. OTHERWISE, VIRTUALLY ALL AT FIRST SECRETARY LEVEL AND STAFFED FROM BEIRUT EMBASSIES EXCEPT WEST GERMANY, WHICH SENT TWO EXPERTS FROM BONN.

2. RESOLUTIONS: ALL ADOPTED WITHOUT VOTE. FOUR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OR CALLED ATTENTION TO (1) ECWA'S PLANNED ANNUAL STATISTICAL ABSTRACT, (2) ECWA COOPERATION WITH EXISTING REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS, (3) UN DEVELOPMENT DECADE, (4) INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR. OTHERS SUMMARIZED BELOW WITH ANY EXTRA EXPENSE NOTED:

A. UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: ECWA MEMBERS URGED TO INCREASE THEIR REPRESENTATION ON COUNCIL (ONLY KUWAIT NOW ON COUNCIL); ECOSOC REQUESTED "ENSURE MORE EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION" OF ECWA MEMBERS ON COUNCIL; ECWA EXEC SCTY CALLED UPON TO HOLD PREPARATORY MEETINGS OF ECWA MEMBERS ON COUNCIL PRIOR EACH COUNCIL SESSION. FIVE MEMBERS SPONSORED. NO EXTRA EXPENSE UNLESS UNDP DOCUMENTS TRANSLATED INTO ARABIC.

B. VOLUNTARY FUND: IRAQ INITIATIVE, APPARENTLY WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION, TO ESTABLISH VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND TO FINANCE SPECIAL ECWA PROJECTS WAS RESISTED IN DEBATE BY KUWAIT. OTHER PTENTIAL DONORS RUMORED TO HAVE OPPOSED IN CLOSED SESSION. FINAL VERSION DECIDED TO AUTHORIZE IRAQ DELEGATION HEAD AND EXEC SCTY TO HOLD URGENT CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBERS ABOUT ESTABLISHING FUND. EXTRA EXPENSE ESTIMATED AT \$16,000 FOR TRAVEL.

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C. PLO: RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY ALL PRESENT EXCEPT SAUDI ARABIA ACCEPTS PLO AS PERMANENT OBSERVER; INVITES IT PARTICIPATE IN ALL FUTURE ECWA SESSIONS AND ACTIVITIES; EXTENDS ECWA RESEARCH, ADVISORY AND TRAINING SERVICES TO PLO; REQUEST EXEC SCTY TO "PREPARE A REPORT ON THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONDUCT OF A GENERAL STUDY OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION AND PTENTIAL OF THE PALESTINIAN ARAB PEOPLE IN THE

REGION OF WESTERN ASIA AND TO SUBMIT THIS REPORT TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS NEXT REGULAR SESSION". UNUSUALLY DETAILED ESTIMATE PLACES EXTRA EXPENSE AT \$155,700, MOSTLY FOR FOUR NEW STAFF, INCLUDING ONE P-5 AT \$50,000 AND ONE P-4 AT \$40,000.

D. STATISTICS: IRAQI INITIATIVE INVITING ECWA TO ESTABLISH STATISTICAL DIVISION WAS REDUCED TO INVITING ECWA TO "EXPAND STATISSTICAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF SEPARATE STATISITCS DIVISION". EXTRA EXPENSE FORESEEN BUT NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN.

E. REGIONAL (PAN-ARAB) COOPERATION: EXEC SCTY REQUESTED, IN CONSULTATION ECA AND OTHERS INTERESTED, TO "INITIATE STUDIES ON SELECTIVE BASIS TO ENCOMPASS ENTIRE ARAB WORLD". IRAQ SPONSORED.

F. LEAST DEVELOPED: SUPPORTS INCLUSION OF NORTH AND SOUTH YEMEN ON 1975 LIST OF HARD-CORE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND URGES ECWA CONTINUE PROVIDE THEM WITH EXTRE ATTENTION.

G. WORK PROGRAM: E/ECWA /17 (ENCLOSED BEIRUT A-99 AND A-110) ENDORSED WITHOUT MAJOR CHANGES.

H. STANDING COMMITTEE: IN PRACTICAL STEP, THIS ESTABLISHED MAINLY TO SCREEN IN ADVANCE APPLICATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE AT ECWA FUNCTIONS BY NON-MEMBERS. INTENT IS TO REMOVE UNCERTAINTY FOR DELEGATES, SUCH AS AMERICANS, WHO MUST TRAVEL LONG DISTANCES. COMMITTEE PROBABLY WOULD BE COMPOSED OF ECWA EMBASSIES BEIRUT.

I. ARABIC: DECIDES THAT ORIGINAL LANGUAGE OF RESOLUTIONS WILL BE ARABIC AND THAT ECWA DOCUEMENTS WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO ARABIC.

J. EXECUTING AGENCY: URGES MEMBERS TO REQUEST, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, DESIGNATION OF ECWA AS EXECUTING AGENCY FOR APPROVED UNDP REGIONAL PROJECTS.

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3. OTHER MAJOR ITEMS HANDLED AS FOLLOWAS:

A. PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS SITE: AFTER CLOSED MEETING, THIS DISPOSED OF IN FOUR MINUTES IN OPEN SESSION BY URGING MEMBERS INTERESTED TO SUBMIT DETAILED PROPOSALS TO SECRETARIAT AT LEAST SIX WEEKS BEFORE THIRD SESSION, WHICH A SPECIAL SEPTEMBER MEETING DECIDED WOULD BE FINAL DEADLINE FOR DECISION. BEIRUT, DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD INTERESTED, WITH LAST MENTIONED REPORTED TO HAVE SUBMITTED DETAILED BLUE-PRINTS FOR AN ECWA OFFICE AND HOUSING COMPLEX.

B. THIRD SESSION SITE: AFTER AGREEING IT SHOULD NOT BE HOSTED BY ONE OF HEADQUARTERS CONTENTERS, MEETING DECIDED THAT ONE OF THE GULF GOVERNMENTS SHOULD, NO LATER THAN AUGUST 10, IFORM SECRE-

TARIAT OF DESIRE TO HOST SESSION. OTHERWISE, BEIRUT
IS SITE. HOST MUST AGREE TO BEAR EXTRE EXPENSES.
ANNUAL SESSION IS THIRD MONDAY OF APRIL, OR APRIL 19,
1976.

C NEW MEMBERS: CLOSES SESSION AGREED TO
TAKE NO ACTION THIS YEAR. EGYPT AND PAKISTAN
APPLICATIONS STILL PENDING.
GODLEY

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